

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification has been amended to address the objection to the disclosure made on page 2 of the Office Action.

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13-16 are currently being amended.

Claim 17 is currently being added, whereby support for this claim may be found in Figure 7 and on page 16 of the specification.

This amendment amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the lack of a cooperative relationship between the "memory" and the "processor" of claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to provide such a cooperative relationship. Also, claims 3, 7 and 11 have been amended to better recite the features in those claims. Further, claim 13 has been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection noted in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,841,699 to Miyauchi; and claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,189,081 to Fujio. These rejections are

traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

In Fujio's system, all FAT processing is done by his card controller 31, and thus the host device (portable instrument 21) is not provided with any portion of the FAT data when the host device outputs a write request to the memory card (semiconductor disk 20). However, as recited in presently pending claim 1, which is directed to the second embodiment of the invention, a portion of the FAT is provided to the host device, so that the host device knows which portions (sectors) of the memory card a file has been written into. That way, when the host device wants to retrieve that file at a later time, it knows exactly which sectors of the memory card to retrieve the file from.

Miyauchi's system is similar to Fujio's system, whereby his internal control CPU 3 (or 33) performs all of the FAT processing, and whereby Miyauchi's internal control CPU 3 (or 33) does not provide any of the FAT data to the host device.

New claim 17 has been added, whereby this claim is directed to the "separate" structure shown in Figure 7 of the drawings, whereby none of the cited art of record teaches or suggests these features.

Accordingly, since the above-mentioned features have been included in each of the presently pending independent claims, all of the presently pending claims are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Therefore, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

June 14, 2004
Date

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Customer Number: 22879

Phillip J. Articola
Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819
Telephone No. (202) 672-5300
Facsimile No. (202) 672-5399